



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

January 15, 2014

The Honorable John Hickenlooper  
Governor  
State of Colorado  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating 15 Colorado counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought. The primary counties included under this designation are:

Baca	Crowley	Kit Carson	Otero	Pueblo
Bent	El Paso	Las Animas	Phillips	Sedgwick
Cheyenne	Kiowa	Lincoln	Prowers	Yuma

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of: (1) D2 (Drought-Severe) for 8 or more consecutive weeks; or (2) D3 (Drought-Extreme) or D4 (Drought-Exceptional).

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 10 counties are named as contiguous disaster counties. The contiguous counties included under this designation are:

Arapahoe	Custer	Elbert	Huerfano	Teller
Costilla	Douglas	Fremont	Logan	Washington

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Also, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, counties in adjacent States are named as contiguous disaster areas. Those States, counties, and numbers are:

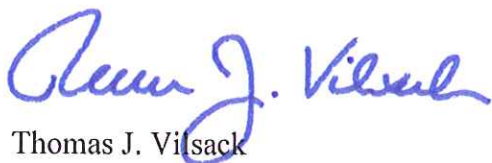
**Contiguous counties in Adjacent States:**

<b>Kansas</b>	<b>(7)</b>		
Cheyenne	Hamilton	Sherman	Wallace
Greeley	Morton	Stanton	
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>(5)</b>		
Chase	Deuel	Perkins	
Cheyenne	Dundy		
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>(2)</b>		
Colfax	Union		
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>(1)</b>		
Cimarron			

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm, and the security and repayment ability of the operator.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary